

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 15930 211612Z

64

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 ISO-00 EUR-25 COA-02 L-03 IO-14

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 COME-00 CEQ-02 INT-08

SMI-01 DODE-00 EA-11 DRC-01 /111 W

----- 070406

R 211321Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4802

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY REYKAVIK

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SENV, EFIS, TBIO, OCON, UR

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION (IWC)

REF: A. STATE 248444; B. STATE 13082

1. IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S OCTOBER 19 APPROACH TO DEPUTY
FOREIGN MINISTER KOZYREV, DEPUTY CHIEF MFA'S USA DIVISION
FEDOSEYEV GAVE POL COUNSELOR AIDE-MEMOIRE DECEMBER 20
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 15930 211612Z

CONCERNING SOVIET OBJECTIONS TO IWC DECISIONS ON QUOTOAS FOR
MINKE AND SPERM WHALES.

2. SOVIET NOTE STATES THAT USSR BELIEVES THAT WHALE RESOURCES MUST BE EXPLOITED ON A STRICTLY SCIENTIFIC BASIS AND CITES SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF A REDUCTION OF ITS FIN WHALE QUOTA AS EVIDENCE OF SOVIET CONCERN FOR CONSERVATION. HOWEVER, SOVIET EXPERTS BELIEVE THAT THE IWC'S DECISION TO SET THE MINKE WHALE QUOTA AT 5,000 WAS NOT BASED ON SUFFICIENTLY SCIENTIFIC GROUNDS. THE USSR CONSIDERS THAT THE JAPANESE PROPOSAL TO LIMIT THE CATCH TO 8,000 IS BASED ON MORE ACCURATE RESEARCH AND NOTES THAT THE JAPANESE CONTENTION THAT THIS QUOTA WOULD NOT DAMAGE EXISTING MINKE WHALE STOCKS HAS NOT BEEN DISPROVED. THEREFORE, THE USSR SUPPORTS THE JAPANESE PROPOSAL.

3. IN REGARD TO THE SOVIET OBJECTION TO THE IWC DECISIONS ON THE EXTENSION OF THE GENERAL QUOTA ON SPERM WHALES IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE AND THE NORTH PACIFIC, THE USSR BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ASSIGN COUNTRY QUOTAS. AS TO THE US CLAIM THAT THE USSR DISREGARDS THE VIEWS OF 12 OTHER IWC MEMBERS BY REFUSING TO AGREE TO THE IWC'S DECISIONS ON SPERM WHALES, THE SOVIET NOTE REFERS TO ARTICLE 5 OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING CONVENTION OF 1946, NOTING THAT IT APPLIES EQUALLY TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION.

4. THE NOTE CONCLUDES THAT THE USSR HAS CONSTANTLY DEMONSTRATED ITS DESIRE TO FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE IWC, AND HAS ALREADY AGREED TO REDUCTIONS FOR CERTAIN ENDANGERED SPECIES. HOWEVER, THE SOVIETS CONSIDER THAT THE OBVIOUS ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF REDUCTIONS IN WHALE CATCHES DEMAND THAT QUOTAS BE ESTABLISHED ON A PRECISE SCIENTIFIC BASIS AND THE USSR IS READY TO COOPERATE IN FUTURE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE WORK OF THE IWC.

5. AIDE-MEMOIRE BEING POUCHED TO S/FW, DECEMBER 21,
REGISTRY NO. 956965.
SOMMERLATTE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WHALING, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW15930
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731211/aaaaahmv.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SCI
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 248444; B. STATE 13082
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <06-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION (IWC)
TAGS: SENV, EFIS, TBIO, OCON, UR, IWC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005